

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 12 and 14-19.

The above amendment is responsive to points set forth in the Official Action.

In this regard, the above amendment incorporates the features of claims 13 and 20 into claim 12.

Claim 12 has also been amended in self-explanatory ways for increased clarity.

Claims 12-16 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over JP 2002-180267 A in view of Applicant's admitted prior art and WO 96/39549 A1.

Further, claims 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2002-180267 A1 in view of Applicant's admitted prior art and WO 96/39549 A1, as applied to claim 12 above, further in view of EP 0 892 084 A1.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Comparing the citation (W096/39549) with the presently claimed method, it is described on pages 7-10 of the citation that the acid is used in a water-soluble form, i.e. X in the formula denotes salt that forms a cation. In addition, the citation relates clearly to salts represented by the formulae: RCOOX and $R^1(COOX)_n$.

On the other hand, the present method employs not a salt but rather a straight-chain fatty acid. Therefore, the present method requires an organic solvent for dissolving straight-chain fatty acid and benzotriazole in water because the two materials are insoluble in water.

In view of this deficiency of WO 96/39549 which is applied in all rejections, it is apparent that the rejections are untenable and should be withdrawn.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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